

PM: Prepare youths for future
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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak says that with a future filled with unknown possibilities, the nation has to prepare its youths from now for jobs that have yet to exist.

Teachers, said the Prime Minister, have to find ways to build their students' intellectual capital to deal with such a future.

"Rapid progress in technology has created jobs that did not even exist 20 years before. This trend will become more prevalent in years to come.

"The question is, how do we prepare them to take on jobs that don't exist yet?

"The answer is, we can't because we don't know what will come in the future.

"What we can do is prepare them with higher order skills, with the ability to not only think at a deeper level but also creatively.

"This will give them the flexibility to adapt to whatever situation they may face in the future," he said when addressing a gathering of top flight teachers under the Government's *Guru Cemerlang* programme at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday.

Najib, who launched the programme when he was Education Minister in the 1990s, said these teachers were best positioned to take the lead in developing the country's intellectual capital.

There are currently some 13,000 teachers who have been absorbed into the *Guru Cemerlang* programme, which allows teachers to enjoy promotions up to Jusa C level (a major public sector position) while continuing to serve in the classroom.

The programme aims to develop top flight teachers who would otherwise have had to take senior administrative jobs at either district, state or federal department levels to enjoy a promotion.

To maintain Malaysia's development path towards a high-income nation, Najib urged teachers to help maintain 60% of the country's students in the Science stream.

This will ensure the country is able to compete both regionally and globally, he added.

The Prime Minister said teachers not only needed to improve on their ability to educate the young but to do it within the context of the Government's transformation policy.

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